

1. A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for creating an electronic prescription for a patient, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

receive user input selecting a medication, the frequency with which the medication should be administered, and whether a generic substitute is acceptable for the medication;

determine which ordering alternatives to display to the user by accessing an electronic database of associations comprising an association of routes with medications, an associations of medications and routes with dose amounts, an associations of medications and routes with dose forms, and an association of routes and medications with frequencies of administration;

display to the user alternative elements for creating an electronic prescription for the currently selected medication including the routes associated with the medication, the dose amounts in which the medication is available in a formulary for a chosen route, the dose forms in which the medication is available in the formulary for a chosen route, and the frequencies of administration associated with the medications and a chosen route;

receive from the user an input accepting an electronic prescription including the user-selected name of the medication, the frequency of administration, the route of administration, the dose amount, and the dose form; and

send the electronic prescription including the name of the medication, a unique medication identifier, the dose amount, the route of administration, the dose form, and the frequency of administration to a pharmacy.